



"steve..crawford"@fakeaddress.net on 09/05/2001 07:15:34 PM

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To: PSSE, Bonnie Fogdall/YM/RWDOE
CC:

SEP 06 2001

Subject: PSSE Comment

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

September 05, 2001 19:15:34

IP address: 24.120.47.221

---> Commentors Name: Mr. steve crawford
---> Organization: none
---> Position: physicist/atmospheric scientist

---> The Commentors Address:
---> 10413 rocky waters ave.
---> las vegas, Nevada 89129

---> Email Information:
---> sc4597@yahoo.com
---> Add commentor to the mailing list : yes

---> Contact Information:
---> fax number : -
---> phone number : -
---> organization : none
---> position : physicist/atmospheric scientist

--> Comment Text :
I am a physicist, my postgraduate work was in atmospheric science.

For 4 1/2 years before I became disabled (in 1998),

I was a technical adviser

to the DOD on environmental cleanup and other issues. Also I
contributed to the innovation of new technology that would reduce
costs and improve the efficiency of DOD environmental compliance.

The DOD was one of the worst polluters in the United States, public
or private. Yet, as I witnessed, the DOD was forced to change
itself into an environmentally compliant organization. This did
not happen because the DOD suddenly became interested in environmental
issues. The government, through the Congress and President,

FORCED this change upon the DOD.

550191

I do not like the DOE nor do I particularly trust it. However, over the past decades the DOE has been forced to conduct its radioactive waste program in a transparent manner. It IS possible to force a large government organization to change. The DOE has changed, whether it has wanted to or not.

It is not 1955 anymore. The outrageous abuses the AEC committed in the past were done by a different organization, which had no oversight controls. I find the comments by the Governor of Nevada about what happened in the past to be a deliberate attempt to confuse the issue.

Second, the level of science education, espically in the physical sciences, is an abomination. Due to the ignorance of basic physics in the general population the word "radioactivity" can, and is, being used as a boogymen to scare the people of Nevada into bad policy. I am much more worried about the chemicals, and chemical waste already being moved across this country than any controlled convoy carrying encased waste. Radioactivity, by its own definition, can always be detected by its emissions. This is true even for very minute quantities of radioactive material. This is not always true for biohazard and chemical waste.

The elected leaders of Nevada are doing the people of Nevada a great disservice by opposing Yucca Mountain. The only affect of opening this waste depository will be to provide a permanent source of jobs and funding for Nevada.

What I have heard of this public hearing confirms my suspicion: The people who oppose Yucca Mountain are reacting rather than thinking.

I witnessed the debate over the WIPP project in New Mexico. The more educated people were, and the closer they were to the

550191

convoy route

to be used, more strongly they supported WIPP. Also, New Mexico
now has more jobs and Federal funding that it had before.

The elected leaders have failed the people who elected them.
Instead of attempting to maximize the amount of jobs and money
Nevada workers receive, they instead have pandered to unfounded
fears and ignorance, for short term political goals.

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